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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Docket No. 00-399)

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APR 23 2004

## Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 21, 2004**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 21, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 20 of this paper.